

Kitsap center study takes shape

Early survey findings show strong support for a higher education center that would make it easier for Kitsap, Mason, Jefferson and Clallam county residents to attend college. A draft program and operating plan for such a center is being prepared and will be presented to the HECB at its October meeting. Opportunity for public comment will follow. [Read more.](#)

HECB supports Core 24 requirements

The HECB has endorsed the State Board of Education's Core 24 requirements for high school graduation in Washington. The new requirements are closer to the HECB's recently revised minimum standards for college admission. [Read more.](#)

Performance agreement update

Washington's baccalaureate institutions submitted drafts of six-year performance agreements to a state committee established by the Legislature. The Legislature called on the institutions and the state to enter into the agreements, which describe educational goals and outcomes in areas such as enrollment levels, state funding and tuition revenue, and capital budget requests. [Read more.](#)

Executive Director's report

Ann Daley, HECB executive director, reported on recent activity at the Board meeting in SeaTac on Sept. 18, 2008.

► Update on GET

Washington's Guaranteed Education Tuition (GET) program has just kicked off a new marketing effort. The median age of GET enrollees is five, suggesting many families are starting early on their college saving. Washington's pledge to guarantee the value of GET units should reassure college savers during uncertain economic times. [Read more.](#)

► 2009-11 Budget Request

The HECB and the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges have proposed funding for a new Academic Guidance and Planning System. The system would enable students to see how earned or planned credits would apply to any degree program offered by public or private institutions.

► Higher Education Act Reauthorization

The recently reauthorized federal Higher Education Act contains a number of changes that will benefit college students. Aid levels for low-income students eligible for federal Pell Grants have been increased, and students can now receive the grants year round. The number of questions on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid also has been reduced to help simplify the aid application process and make student aid more available.

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September 17-18 Board Meeting in SeaTac

Board work session
focuses on *next steps* in
effort to implement
state's 10-year Strategic
Master Plan for Higher
Education. Page 2



Board approves new UW Master of Laws in Health Law Degree

Changes authorized in requirements for Associate of Science Transfer Degree

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HECB Update go to:

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Board meeting materials at:
[www.hecb.wa.gov/boardmtgs/
index.asp](http://www.hecb.wa.gov/boardmtgs/index.asp)

State needs 10-year action plan to raise education levels

In October, the Higher Education Coordinating Board will be asked to consider a preliminary draft of a 10-year action plan to accomplish the goal of educating more Washington citizens to higher levels. According to Ann Daley, HECB executive director, the plan will focus on four key elements:

1. Increased enrollments to achieve greater levels of education across all postsecondary sectors: basic education and workforce training; associate degrees and certificates; and bachelor's, high-demand and advanced degrees.
2. Providing funding estimates to achieve increased enrollment **during the next five biennia**.
3. Policy initiatives to increase student preparation, participation, and success, including outreach efforts aimed at low-income and minority students in K-12 and at under-educated and under-employed young adults.
4. A new framework to build the programmatic, technological, and physical capacity of higher education so that it can 'expand on demand.'

Three work groups are now busy developing various parts of the action plan:

► Preparing, motivating more students to succeed

Washington needs to get many more students in middle and high school prepared and motivated to participate and succeed in postsecondary education to achieve Strategic Master Plan goals.

The **Policy and Demographic Work Group** has held several meetings to examine the state's demographic and postsecondary participation trends and identify policy initiatives to increase access and success among target populations. The group is preparing a draft report for the Board's October meeting.

► Aligning degree goals with workforce needs

Washington's economy has become highly diversified in the last 30 years and requires a much more educated workforce to compete in the global economy.

That is one conclusion reached by the **Economic Needs Assessment Work Group**, formed to study how to help align degree attainment more closely with workforce needs over the next decade.

► Increasing system capacity strategically

What is the best way to develop the state's higher education system to meet increased demand during the next decade and beyond? A new, holistic approach to increasing system capacity is needed.

Pam Mead, who directs the **Enrollment Capacity Work Group**, said that such an approach would factor in institutional strategic plans, environmental constraints that might limit growth, state objectives for degree attainment levels, and the ability of technology or other alternative course delivery models to expand educational services.

[Read more about the 10-year action plan.](#)

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College graduates should know a thing or two about the world, Global Washington Initiative argues.

Higher Education in the News

Newspaper underscores Wilkerson's reputation as "peacemaker"

Bill Wilkerson will lead effort to reach consensus on UW-North site

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New school year brings more students to the state's college campuses

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College program will be open to ninth-graders

Lawmakers wise to invest in future through new scholarship program